(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for the widening of the gap between exports and imports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the Directorate of Commercial Intellegence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the balance of trade during the last 5 years was as follows:—

Year	Us $ million
1993-94	(-) 1069
1994-95	(-) 2324
1995-96	(-) 4881
1996-97	(-) 5662
1997-98(P)	(-) 6799

(P) Provisional

(b) and (c) The trade deficit increased from US $ 2496 million during April-September, 1997-98, to US $ 4991 during April-September, 1998-99.

(d) The widening of gap has been due both to a slow down in export growth and to increase in imports especially that of gold and silver.

Revamping of Export Promotion Councils

18. Dr. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to revamp various Export Promotion Councils in a bid to streamline their operations and lift sagging exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to formulate comprehensive Model-bye-laws for the smooth functioning of various Export Promotion Councils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith other measures proposed to be taken to push up the volume of exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The performance of Export Promotion Councils is reviewed on a regular basis with special reference to the mandate given to them. Government is continuously making efforts to strengthen these Councils to enable them to cater to the needs of the exporting community in an effective manner.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Sub-Committee has been constituted to look into this matter. Their recommendations are under consideration.

Export and Import of Sugar

19. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) What is the total quantity of sugar exported from India during the last three years till date, quantity-wise, country-wise and value thereof;

(b) whether Govt. also imported sugar during the period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, quantity-wise, country-wise alongwith value thereof till date?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The total quantity & value of sugar exported and imported during the last three years is as under:

Quantity: in Tonnes
Value: Rs. in Lakhs

Year	Exports		Imports	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1995-96	434320	59734	150630	21589
1996-97	667274	86080.03	2131	318.04
1997-98	175081	24060.24	330248	44337.14
1998-99 (April August)	2409	340.71	325840	44096.66

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(c) Country-wise details of exports and imports are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty

20. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions of the Indo-Myanmar Trade Treaty;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that this Treaty has indirectly affected the daily earners of our country who belong to the poorest of the poor;

(c) the amount of funds so far relased for providing infrastructure for the trade on our side;

(d) whether Government are aware of the fact that the marketing centres at More which were on our side have been shifted to the Myanmar side at Namphalong and Tamu; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) India and Myanmar have signed an Agreement on Trade on 27th May, 1970 providing for Most Favoured Nation treatment to each other. India and Myanmar have also signed a border agreement on 21.1.1994 which provides for border trade to be conducted initially through Moreh in Manipur corresponding to Tamu in Myanmar and Champai in Mizoram corresponding to Rih in Myanmar. The border trade at Moreh in Manipur was made operational on 12.4.95 whereas the border trade at other border points has not yet been operationalised. The border trade agreement also provides for exchanges of locally produced commodities as identified therein, by people living along both sides of the border as per the prevailing customary practice including barter mechanism. Trade under this agreement may be conducted in freely convertible currencies or in currencies mutually agreed upon by the two countries, including through counter trade arrangements. However, the myanmar have decided in November 1997 that the normal trade through the Border should take place only in US Dollars with Myanmar exports preceding the imports from India. The agreement provides for a periodical review by both sides to ensure successful implementation of its objectives and provisions.

(b) The border trade agreement provides for the exchange of locally produced commodities by people living on both sides of the Indo-Myanmar border as per the customary practice including the barter mechanism. As such this treaty helps the people living on both sides of the border to meet their respective daily needs through the exchange of head loads and barter mechanism.

(c) Ministry of commerce has released an amount of Rs. 2 crores for the construction of a composite building at Zokhawthar near Champai in Mizoram to house various trade facilities. Department of Revenue has spent Rs. 56.80 lakhs for construction of an integrated customs building at Moreh in Manipur. Planning Commission have also released Rs. 4 crores each in 1997-98 to Manipur and Mizoram States for Border Area Development Programme. The same amount has also been tentatively allocated for the current year 1998-99 by the Planning Commission for each of the above mentioned border States and Rs. 2 crores has already been released to Mizoram during the current year. Rs. 8 crores was also released as Additional Central Assistance to Mizoram by Planning Commission towards development of infrastructural facilities for operationalising the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade through Mizoram. Rs. 5 crores has also been released by the Planning Commission as Additional Central Assistance to Mizoram for development of Champai-Tiau road.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

आयात-निर्यात सौदे

21. श्री मुनव्वर हसन: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत वर्ष के दौरान विभिन्न देशों के साथ किए गए आयात-निर्यात के सौदों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि देश में कतिपय आवश्यक वस्तुओं की कमी के बावजूद गत छ: महीनों में अन्य देशों को इनका निर्यात किया गया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) आयातित तथा निर्यातित वस्तुओं के मूल्यों का अन्तर कितना-कितना रहा है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) निर्यात आयात सौदे होते रहना एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है। अप्रैल-अगस्त, 1998 के लिए निर्यात एवं आयात मदवार ब्यौरे विवरण-I में दिए गए हैं। **(नीचे देखिए)**

(ख) और (ग) गत छ: महीनों के दौरान कतिपय आवश्यक वस्तुओं के निर्यात का ब्यौरा विवरण-II में दिया गया है। **(नीचे देखिए)**

(घ) अप्रैल-सितम्बर, 1998 की अवधि के लिए कुल निर्यात-आयात के परिणामस्वरूप व्यापार घाटा 4990.94 मिलियन अमरीकी डालर रहा है।